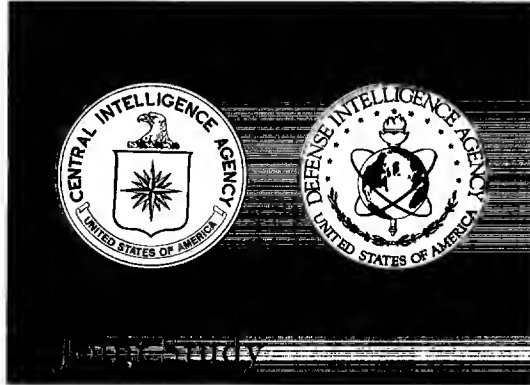


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Communist Violations of the Vietnam and Laos Settlement Agreements and Related Developments

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23 January 1974

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23 January 1974

Forty-Seventh Report**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF THE VIETNAM AND LAOS
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS***


(This report covers the week from
16 January through 22 January 1974)

The Key Points

- Troop infiltration to South Vietnam continued last week with the detection of six new groups destined for the COSVN area. These groups were all included in our previous estimate of infiltration starts.
- The 9th Infantry Regiment of the 968th NVA Division in southern Laos is shifting southward and may be destined for South Vietnam or Cambodia near the Laotian border.
- Logistic activity within the North Vietnamese and Laotian Panhandles was at high levels during the past week, as ordnance and antiaircraft artillery equipment continued to be sent south.
- The North Vietnamese have completed the new road leading through southern Laos into central South Vietnam and are beginning work on damaged and uncompleted sections of Communist Route 14 in the northern half of South Vietnam.

* This report has been prepared jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense.

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Preface

This report is the forty-seventh in a series summarizing evidence received during the reporting period of (I) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military supplies toward and into South Vietnam, (II) Communist-initiated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements, and (III) other developments affecting Communist military capabilities in Indochina.

DETAILS

I. Infiltration and Redeployments of North Vietnamese Personnel and Military Supplies***Personnel Infiltration***

1. Hanoi continued to send combat troops south last week; five new regular groups were detected in North Vietnam and one was initially observed in southern Laos. These groups, all of which are destined for COSVN, had been accounted for previously by "gap-filling" in our estimate of infiltration starts. Because their average reported strength was somewhat higher than that estimated, however, total infiltration to COSVN thus far in the 1973-74 dry season, as shown in the following table, was raised to 14,000 troops from last week's 13,500. Continuing the heavy movement of specialists to South Vietnam, including a number of middle- and high-ranking cadre, fourteen special-purpose groups with about 150 persons also were detected for the first time last week -- 10 traveling to COSVN, 2 en route to the B-3 Front, and 2 moving toward VC MR 5.

**Comparative Starts of Troops
from North Vietnam, by Destination
1 September - 22 January**

	1972-73	1973-74
Total	70,000	46,000
MR Tri-Thien-Hue	18,500	2,000
MR 5	9,000	2,000
B-3 Front	12,500	5,500
COSVN	20,000	14,000
Southern Laos/MR 559	10,000	22,500

2. COMINT of 22 January supports previous evidence of an impending major relocation of the 9th Regiment of the 968th NVA Infantry Division from the Bolovens Plateau area in southern Laos. The intercept indicated that the 9th Regiment, or at least elements of it, was moving south and would arrive at its destination in "ten days

[redacted]

by foot or three days by truck." Although the final destination of the unit was not given in the intercept, the reported travel times for the deployment suggest that the unit may be destined for northern Cambodia or western South Vietnam, near the Laotian border. There are no indications at present that the division's two other regiments are planning a similar move.

Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies

North Vietnam

3. North Vietnamese logistic activity was again heavy during the past week as large shipments of ordnance and POL products were detected moving through the Panhandle. Logistics units in the Vinh area reportedly handled more than 1,000 tons of cargo, most of which was identified as antiaircraft artillery ammunition and lubricants. In addition, some 60 37-mm weapons were detected moving southward, the second consecutive week AAA equipment has been noted being sent south. Although no final destination for the shipments was given, the cargo may be destined for antiaircraft units located along the Communists' western supply corridor in northern South Vietnam where North Vietnamese air defenses continue to be expanded. Heavier supply shipments along this corridor are expected shortly, as the weather becomes more favorable by the end of next month. The Communists may want to strengthen their air defense units before accelerating supply shipments, particularly since the South Vietnamese Air Force has been conducting heavy airstrikes in the area.

4. Farther south in the North Vietnamese Panhandle between Quang Khe and the DMZ, heavy supply shipments also were detected. During 15-19 January, some 150 tons of cargo were shipped southward daily on barges. Most of the materiel was unidentified, but presumably it contains a large proportion of ordnance similar to that detected in the Vinh area.

Laos

5. COMINT and photography indicated a heavy, sustained level of vehicle activity in the Laotian Panhandle during the past week. [redacted] logistics units in the area reported handling more than 600 trucks, a level of activity confirmed by aerial photography. Through [redacted] several hundred trucks were observed daily on the Communist dual-lane road from Muong Nong to the tri-border area, including a one-day high of some 700 trucks [redacted] Southbound traffic generally predominated this movement, and convoys of 50-100 trucks were not uncommon.

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6. In other developments, a 15 January directive to logistics units operating in the Laotian Panhandle announced a one-day holiday for Tet, following the pattern of past years. The Tet holiday, however, will actually be celebrated over a three-day period, as Group 472 apparently plans to stagger the time off for its personnel. The issuance of the directive suggests that the North Vietnamese are satisfied with the dry season effort to date and that supplies are not needed farther south on any crash basis.

South Vietnam

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7. In South Vietnam, [] photography showed the continued heavy use of Route 9 both east and west of Khe Sanh. On that date, more than 100 trucks were seen on the road, which, according to field analysis, was reported in good to excellent condition. Lack of reporting prevented any analysis of the level of logistic activity in other areas of northern South Vietnam during the period.

II. Communist-Initiated Combat Activity in South Vietnam and Laos

South Vietnam

8. In South Vietnam the total number of Communist-initiated cease-fire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 27 January 1973, since 15 June 1973, and for the past week (16-22 January 1974) are shown below:

Military Region	Total Since 27 January Cease-Fire		Total Since 15 June Cease-Fire		Last Week (16-22 Jan 74)	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Total	4,556	30,393	2,187	16,438	79(76) ¹	613(425) ¹
MR 1	1,561	5,742	536	2,383	5	34
MR 2	784	5,014	520	3,160	33	72
MR 3	703	5,228	301	2,652	9	41
MR 4	1,508	14,409	830	8,243	32	466

1. Figures in parentheses denote totals of the previous week.

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9. Some of these violations may have been initiated by South Vietnamese forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The tabulation above and the charts following the Annex, however, show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the cease-fire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated objectively. Operational reports since 19 December, however, have attempted to distinguish between Communist and friendly initiated violations. Only those violations designated as Communist-initiated are reported in the above tabulation.

10. There was no significant military activity in Laos during the past week.

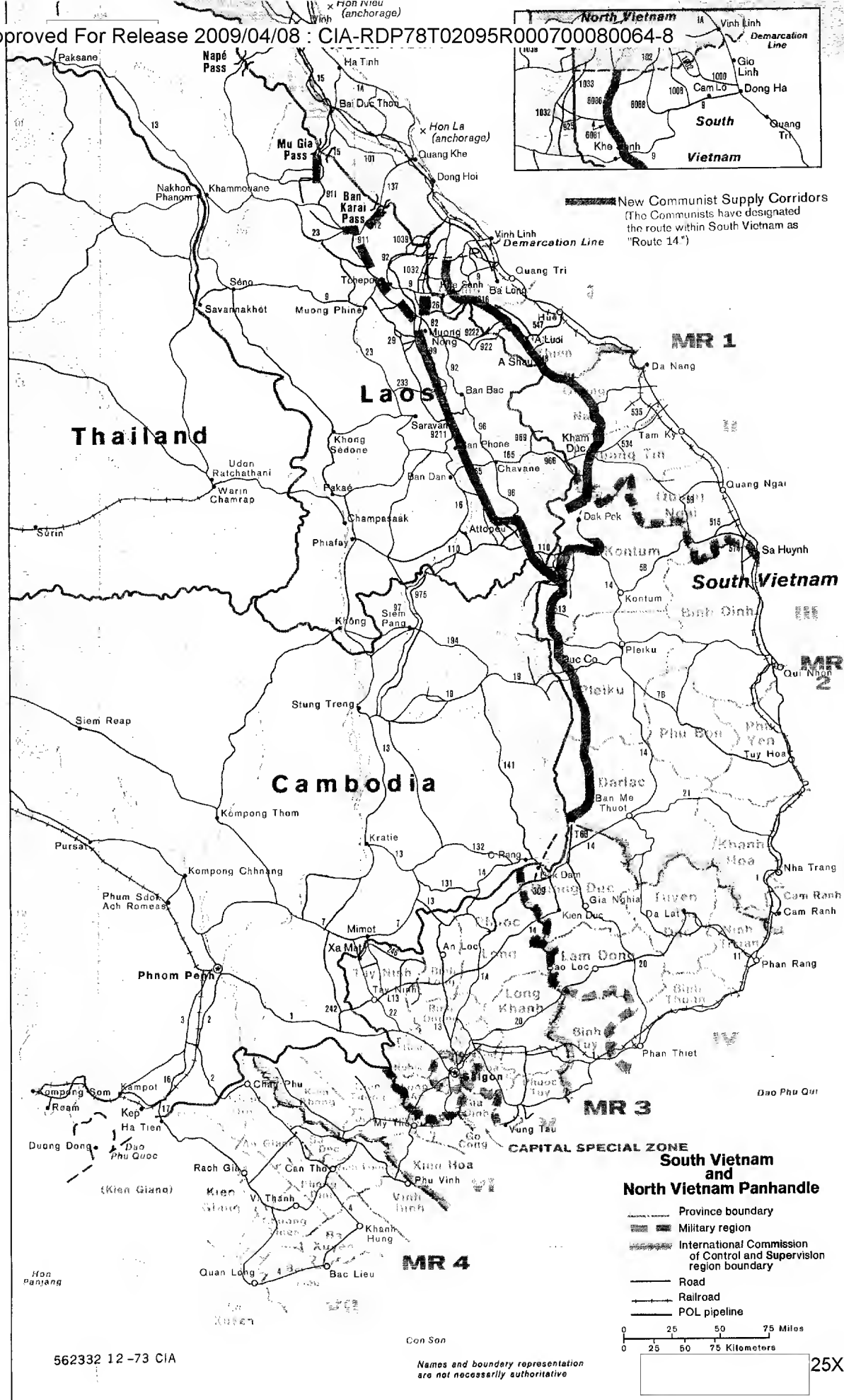
III. Other Developments Affecting Communist Military Capabilities in Indochina

Communist Construction Crews Remain Busy in Laos and South Vietnam

11. [redacted] North Vietnamese met their yearend deadline for completion of the new dual-lane route leading through southern Laos into central South Vietnam. The final gap of about 10 miles through the tri-border has been improved and joins the Laotian route to its sister dual-lane system - Route 14 - extending along the western GVN border (see the map on transportation).

12. North Vietnamese construction crews are returning to work in earnest on damaged and uncompleted sections of the Route 14 corridor in the northern half of South Vietnam. Early January photography showed a number of segments undergoing repair and improvement, and work is slowly progressing on the final gaps south of the A Shau Valley. The dual-lane bypass road being built around ARVN-controlled Dak Pek has been extended about 2 miles [redacted], leaving another 3-4 miles still to be cleared. South of Dak Pek, about another 35 miles of the dual road must be restored and improved before the Route 14 system can be opened to through traffic. Initial clearing work was observed along the northern half of the 35-mile gap in early January coverage.

13. In addition to the road work, [redacted] photography indicated that the petroleum pipeline system is being extended farther south



along Route 14. [] some 6 miles of new pipeline has been laid south of the old terminus at the A Luoi petroleum storage facility in the northern part of Thua Thien Province.

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Current Status of 324B NVA Division

14. Recent analysis of communication patterns within the 324B NVA Infantry Division in Thua Thien Province of Military Region 1 indicates that its headquarters became the senior tactical command authority in the province as early as April 1973. The Division currently controls one artillery and five infantry regiments. The analysis also indicates that the North Vietnamese 675B Artillery Regiment, one of two that are currently carried in the order of battle for the province, probably withdrew from South Vietnam last year and was replaced by the 78th Artillery Regiment -- previously reported infiltrating the area.

Increase in GVN Assigned Combat Strength

15. The assigned strength of GVN regular combat forces increased from 320,000 to 372,000 between March 1973 and January 1974. This can be attributed to a combination of low GVN casualty rates during the cease-fire period and an increase in the number of regional force battalions from 342 to the authorized 360. The assigned strength of ARVN/VNMC combat units increased from 194,000 to 239,000 men and the number of personnel assigned to regional force battalions increased from 126,000 to 133,000. Although present-for-duty strength data are no longer available, we continue to estimate that it is about 85% of assigned strength levels (see the map showing Communist and South Vietnamese combat forces in South Vietnam).

Communist and South Vietnamese Regular Combat Forces in South Vietnam

South Vietnam

Regular Combat Forces

VC/NVA¹ RVNAF²

186,000 372,000

MR 1

VC/NVA RVNAF

88,000 103,000

325th VNMC

324B Airborne

304th 1st

711th 2nd

2nd 3rd

Regional Forces

1. Includes VC/NVA personnel in ground combat, combat support, and air defense units and local force companies and platoons.

2. RVNAF Ground Order of Battle. Includes assigned personnel in ARVN/VNMC ground combat and combat support units, and Regional Force battalions. Although present for duty strength is no longer available, it is estimated to be about 85% of assigned strength.

MR 2

VC/NVA RVNAF

35,000 78,000

320th 23rd

10th 22nd

3rd Regional Forces

MR 3

VC/NVA RVNAF

38,000 94,000

429th Sapper Command 25th

9th 18th

7th 5th

5th Regional Forces

MR 4

VC/NVA RVNAF

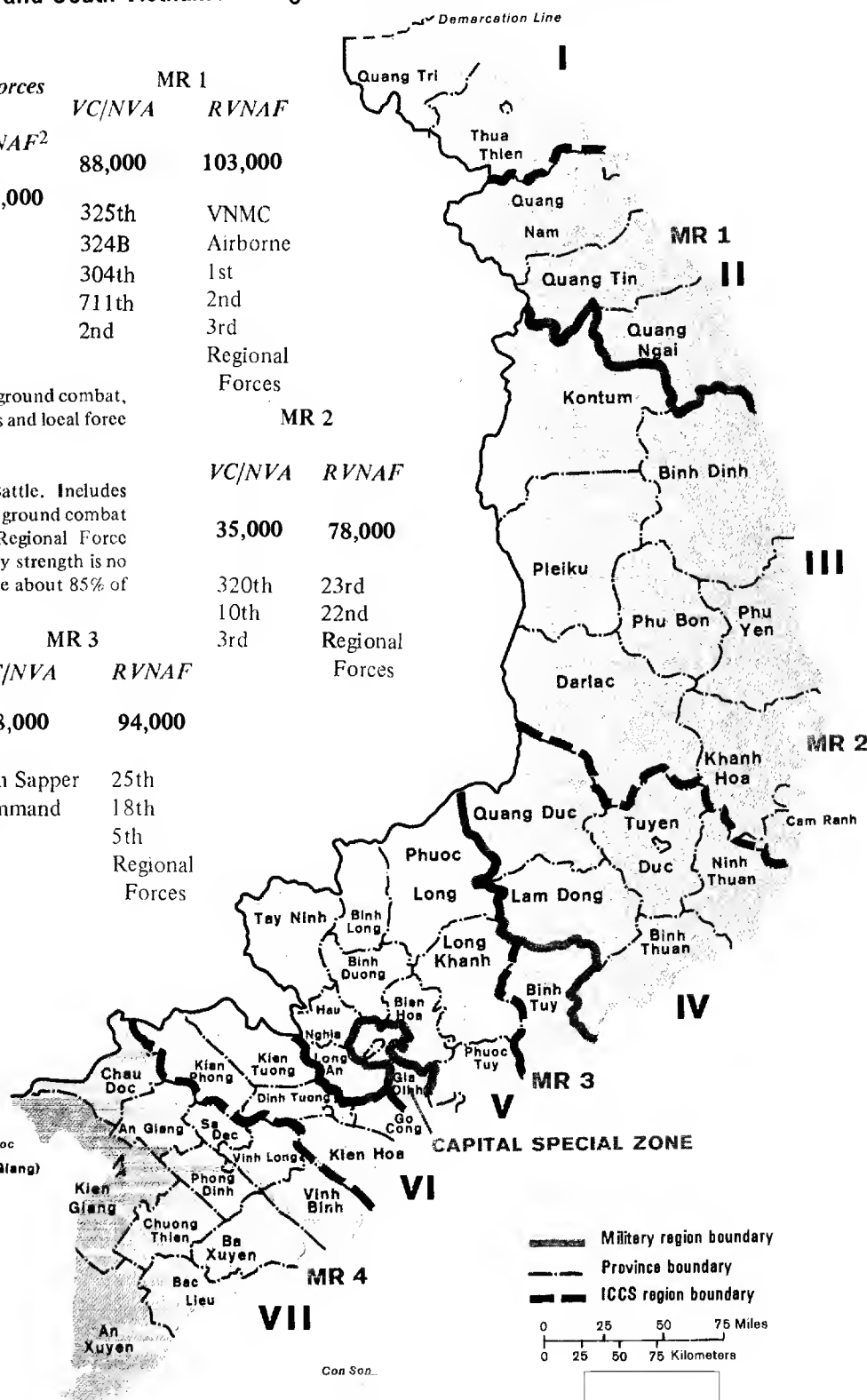
25,000 97,000

1st 21st

9th

7th

Regional Forces



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ANNEX

INFILTRATION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE PERSONNEL
TO THE SOUTH

Since the original settlement agreement for South Vietnam was signed almost one year ago, about 107,000 North Vietnamese troops and specialists have infiltrated southward. Some 82,000 of these have started south since 27 January 1973, while the remaining 25,000 were in the pipeline as of that date. Since 15 June 1973, more than 56,000 troops and specialists have infiltrated southward. The following table shows the number of North Vietnamese troops starting south, by month and destination, since 1 January 1973.

Number of Troops Entering the Pipeline Destined
for South Vietnam, Southern Laos, and Cambodia
Since 1 January 1973¹

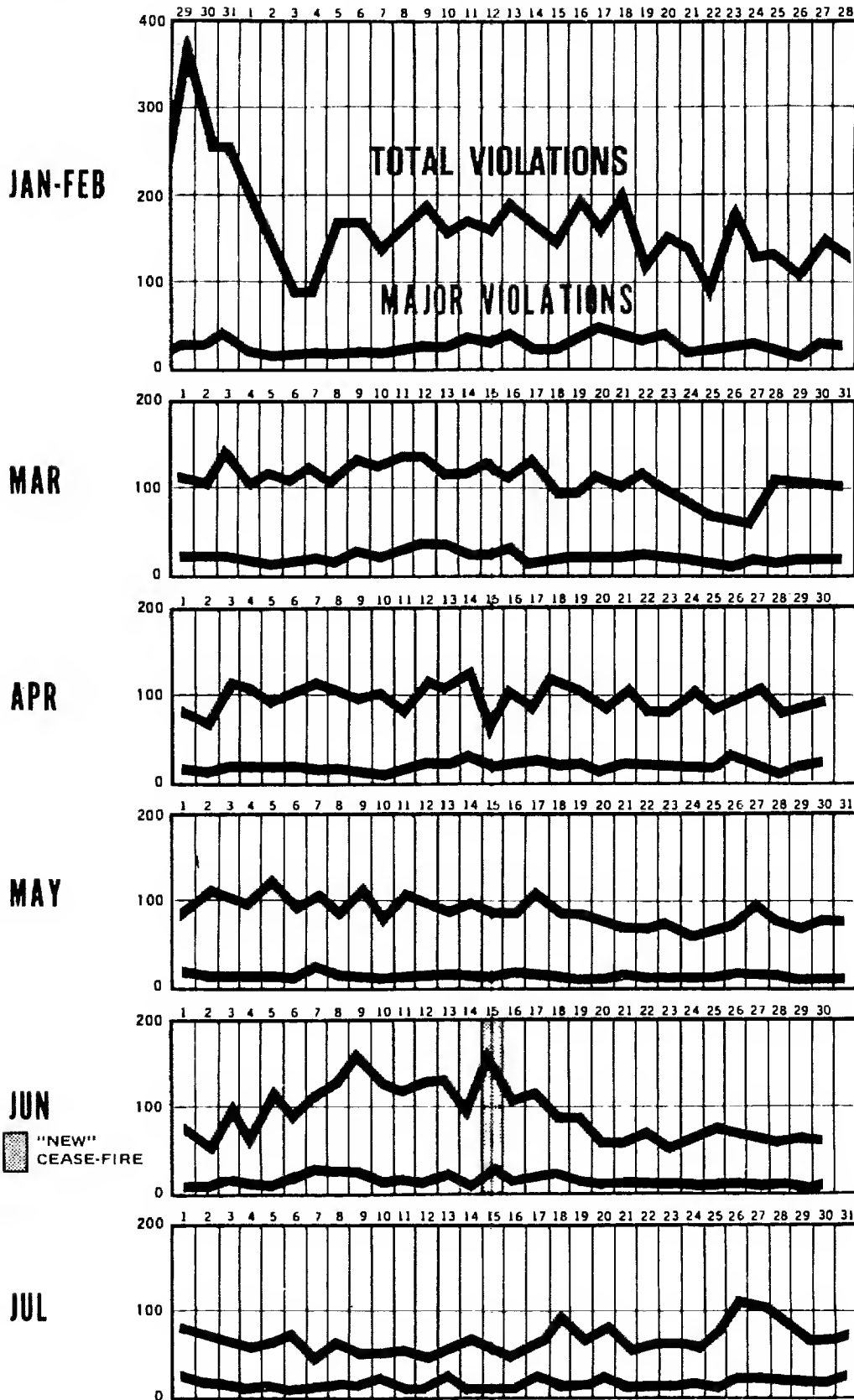
	COSVN	B-3 Front	MR 5	MR Tri- Thien-Hue	Southern Laos/ MR 559	Total
Total	27,000	11,000	9,000	14,000	26,500	87,500
1973						
Jan	7,000	5,000	4,000	2,500	....	18,500
Feb	5,000	500	....	1,500	1,000	8,000
Mar	....	....	....	1,000	....	1,000
Apr	1,000	....	....	....	....	1,000
May	....	....	....	7,000	....	7,000
Jun	....	....	....	....	1,500	1,500
Jul	....	....	3,000	....	....	3,000
Aug	....	....	....	....	1,500	1,500
Sep	....	....	2,000	2,000	3,000	7,000
Oct	....	....	....	....	14,000	14,000
Nov	1,000	1,000	....	....	5,500	7,500
Dec	3,500	1,000	....	....	....	4,500
1974						
Jan 1-22	9,500	3,500	....	....	....	13,000

1. Excludes special purpose personnel. The totals are rounded to the nearest 500.



CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

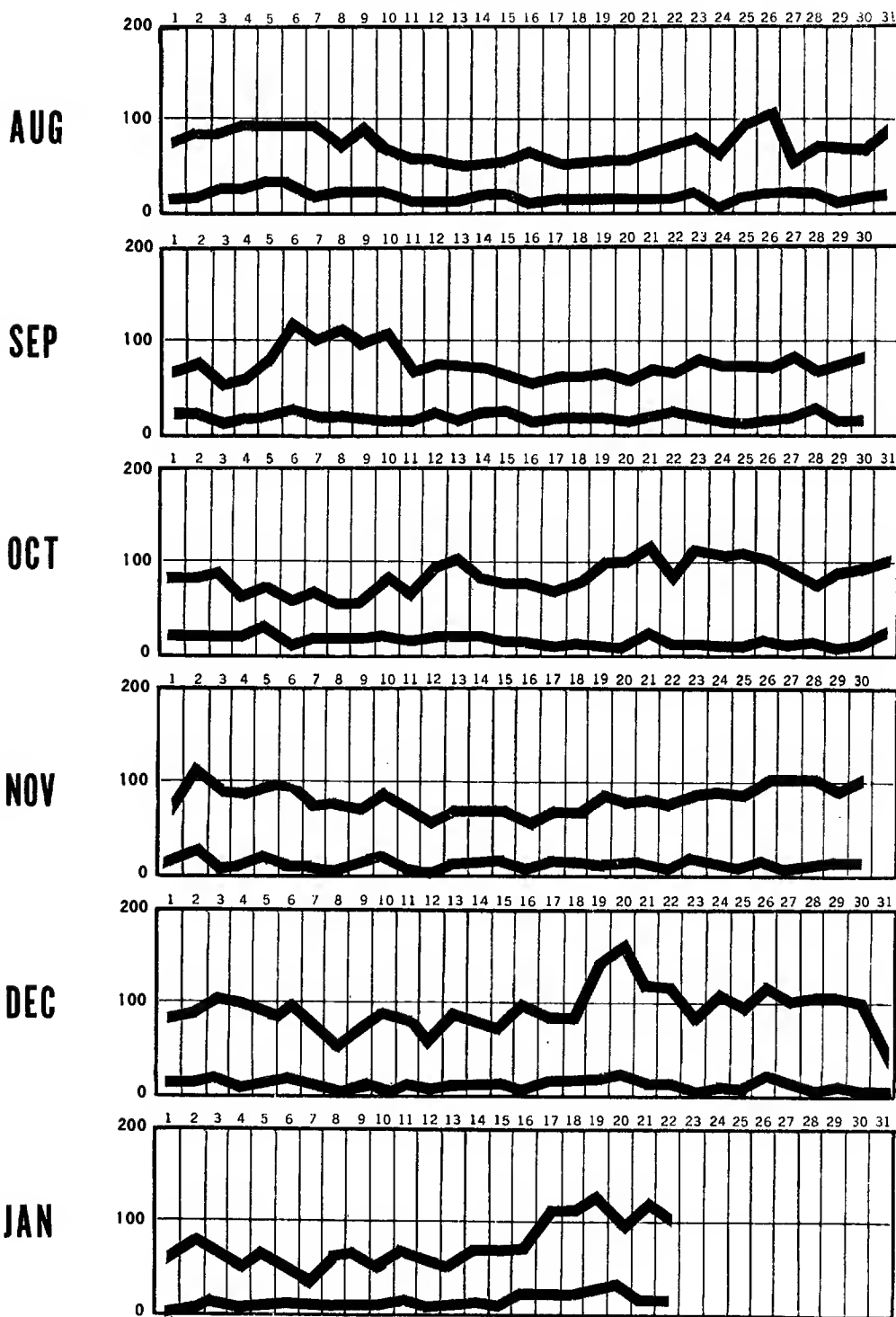
(28 JANUARY THROUGH 31 JULY 1973)





CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(1 AUGUST 1973 TO THE PRESENT)



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